

Spark Gap

Volume 26, Issue 10, October 2009 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities for Twenty-Five Years*

From the Outgoing President



It has been a busy two years as MARC president. Thanks to the efforts of two great officer groups we have accomplished a great deal. Passing the gavel on to Steve Carmean-K9DY caused me to reflect on two years of club accomplishments.

In the fall of 2007 we moved the repeater to high ground with new antennas, coax, voice controller and backup power. Once again we had handheld coverage across Johnson County. Unfortunately, our hopes of getting the Franklin Link up is still in the testing and planning process. We expect Repeater Trustee Jay Chrisman AA9YP to have everything linked by the end of the year.

We did witness instant success from our repeater move. Outlying stations began checking in to the Sunday night net. Club membership grew at 10 percent each year and we put our MARC repeater back on the map.

Getting 501c3 status with the IRS led to equipment donations which were used to purchase the initial repeater upgrades. A grant from the Johnson County Foundation led to further upgrades. As we receive radio equipment donations we have followed the local hamfest circuit to sell the equipment for funding future club projects.

In the last 24-months we have taught and licensed nearly 50 new hams. Last year, under the guidance of Linda Harshbarger KC9GCH, we sponsored three Tech License Classes. This year we followed up

with our first ever General Class course. We even helped local Boy Scouts earn Communication merit badges. Back in the club meeting room Brian Murrey KB9BVN had many members fire up soldering irons to build multi-meter kits. This gave our newer hams a better understanding of how components are put together.

Emergency training was high on our list of things-to-do. Another five club members were trained in CERT classes. Using a FEMA grant we added three new radios, antennas and digital interfaces to the EOC radio room. Adding an 80-meter dipole antenna to the mix will complete our communications abilities in case of a disaster.

Being Club Prez for two years put me in an ideal position to enjoy the 25th Anniversary of the Mid-State ARC. As the club's third president, way back in the 1980's, I had an opportunity to invite past club presidents and members to our February Celebration Breakfast. It was a trip down memory lane that gave newer members a chance to meet and greet many of the hams who actively participated in past Field Day and other public service projects. We followed up with a day long Special Event station in May. Nearly 700 contacts were recorded from around the world. We'll be sending out W9M Special Event QSL cards for the next few years.

I can't emphasize how much I appreciate the support of our officers and all the club members who have volunteered for the many activities, special events and projects. I leave the gavel in Steve's hand knowing he will continue to lead the club toward greater growth. 73, Jack W8ISH ■

*The Official
Newsletter of the
Mid-State Amateur
Radio Club*



Mid-State Amateur
Radio Club
P. O. Box 836
Franklin, IN 46131
www.midstatehams.org

Update on Recent Events

Hilltopper Event

The Indianapolis Radio Club's 2009 Hilltoppers 3rd annual Hilltop on the air (OTA) event was held September 19, 2009. Bands used were 2, 6, or 40 meters, SSB or FM modes. The objective was to work all other registered Hilltop stations on as many bands and modes as possible. Several MARC members participated in the activity. Jay (AA9YP) was on the air from Donald's Knoll near Franklin, Chris (KG6ZIJ) operated from Independence Hill in Greenwood. Jack (W8ISH) and Steve (K9DY) ventured the farthest and tried their luck from Brown county's Bean Blossom overlook.

The event runs from 0800 until 1200, so a very early morning start was required to have everything ready to go. Jack and Steve arrived at the overlook at 0730, in the pre-dawn light to begin antenna assembly and mast mounting of the 2 meter yagi and 6 meter stressed moxon, and hanging a 40 meter half-dipole. Batteries and coax were soon connected to the three radios. One for 40 meters, another with transverter for 6 meter SSB, and the third for 6 meter FM, and 2 meter SSB/FM.

All eight other hilltops were contacted on multiple modes from Bean Blossom overlook. This was a very good location to work the other stations in Brown, Hendricks, Johnson, Morgan, and Shelby counties. All stations were strong on 2 and 6 meters, but 40 meters was very difficult for nearby contacts.

Results were announced at the October 9th IRC meeting. Jay received a nice plaque for winning the Single Operator category, while Jack and Steve placed second in the multi-op, losing a tie-breaker for first place by only 4 total contacts. MARC members made a good showing against some very stiff competition.

-Steve, K9DY

Greenwood Band Contest

The Greenwood Marching Invitational went very well this year with 14 bands participating. Due to the rain a day before the contest, plans were made to use parking facilities for fans at the Greenwood Middle School and in front of the High School. It was very busy at times and even had a couple of calls for an ambulance. The weather started out fine and all was going well until the rains came. However we all stayed with it and kept things moving.

I would like to thank the following hams that gave up their afternoon and evening on Saturday September 26 at Greenwood High School: K9DY - Steve, KC9QCD - Richard, KC9EBL - Brenda, Wd9DVA - Ed, Kc9owd - Myron, AA9GY - Paul, KC9NJM - Bob, KC9ODS - James and KA9OOH - Dave.

73, Bob N9SIU

Jay Chrisman, AA9YP, photo by Jack Parker, WISH

Place Artwork Here

Officers

President:
Steve Carmean,
K9DY

Vice President:
Dave Daily,
KB9LOT

Secretary:
Robert Jones,
KC9NJM

Treasurer:
Jacki Frederick,
K16QOG

Repeater Trustee:
Jay Chrisman,
AA9YP

Spark Gap Editors:
Bob LaGrange,
N9SIU

Linda Harshbarger,
KC9GCH

Class Update

The Technician level amateur radio class was cancelled as not enough potential hams signed up for the class. If you know of anyone wishing to take a class, please have them contact me at 317-887-2558 or at PIO@midstatehams.org. We will be attempting another class beginning in February or March 2010.

Class size is limited to 14 students so registration will close when all 14 spaces are filled. The class will not be held if there is a lack of students. Please check around and let anyone know who is interested. Let's do what we can to get the spring 2010 class filled.

October Meeting

New officers will chair the October meeting. Please try and make the meeting in order to meet and greet those holding office for the first time. They need the support of the membership. Also if you haven't gotten your picture taken for the ID badge please stay after the meeting to get that done. Applications for club membership and ARES/RACES applications will also be available. As a reminder, if you are a member and also a member of the ARRL you can renew your ARRL membership via our club. When you do so, the club receives \$2.00 of the membership fee in order to help support the club. Also remember that MARC is considered a Special Services Club of the ARRL and receive discounts and other perks. We need for a percentage of MARC members to also be ARRL members in order to maintain that status. If you are not an ARRL member, please pick up an ARRL membership form at the meeting and consider joining today.

Hamfest/Event Info

The **37th Annual Ft. Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo**, sponsored by the Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society (ACARTS) will be held on Saturday, November 14 and Sunday, November 15, 2009 at the Allen County War Memorial coliseum Exposition Center. For directions go to www.fortwaynehamfest.com. Times are 9 AM to 4 PM EST on Saturday and 9 AM to 3 PM EST on Sunday. Admission is \$6.00 on Saturday (good for both days) and \$4.00 on Sunday. Coliseum parking is \$4.00 per vehicle. Lat. N41 06.878/Lon. W 85 07.388.

The **17th Annual Evansville Hamfest**, sponsored by EARS and The Ham Station, will be held on Saturday, November 28, 2009 at the Vanderburgh County 4-H Center Auditorium, Evansville, Indiana. Times are from 8 AM to 1 PM Central Time. Talk-in is on the EARS Wide Area Repeater Network 145.150- Evansville, 146.925- & 443.925+ Vincennes (all use 107.2 tone). For more information go to w9ear.org.

VEC Testing

Our Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) team is ARRL accredited, and capable of administering any amateur radio test. As a public service, the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club sponsors test sessions after all but one of its monthly meetings. (September testing is done prior to the picnic.) Meetings begin at 8:00 AM with testing following the meeting (begins about 9:30 AM until 11:00 AM). We would love to have you join us for the meeting. Please check out our website at www.midstatehams.org for directions.

**WA9RDF
Repeater
146.835/
146.235 MHz
151.4 Hz PL
Tone**

**Weekly Net
Every Sunday
at 7PM ET**

***Tune in to hear
the ARRL
Newsline!***

*The Mid-State
Amateur Radio Club
sponsors a weekly
traffic and social net
on our repeater. The
net begins at 7:00
p.m. local time, and
features local news,
announcements, and
NTS traffic, as well as
rebroadcasts of
Amateur Radio
Newsline. This is a
great chance to
meet other local
amateur radio
operators and test
your operating
skills.*

K9DY and W8ISH at
Columbus. Photo by
Mrs. K9DY.

2009 Schedule of Events

OCTOBER 2009

- 4 48th Annual Hoosier Hills Hamfest; Lawrence Co. 4H Fairgrounds, Bedford, IN**
Talk-in 146.730 (-) (107.2 PL); for more information go to website
www.hoosierhillshamfest.org
- 10 Lake County Amateur Radio Club Hamfest; Lake County Fairgrounds, Crown Point, IN**
Talk-in 147.00 (PL 131.8) or 146.52 Simplex
- 10 IRCC Meeting Starke County Library 2-4 PM**
Contact Jack Parker, W8ISH, for more information.
- 17 MARC Meeting - 8:00 AM, Franklin, IN**
Located at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN. VEC Testing after the meeting (approx. 9:30 am to 11:00 am)
- 17 Indianapolis Marathon**
Contact Mike Palmer, N9FEB to volunteer or for more details. www.indyhams.org
- 31 Halloween (Goblin Patrol)**
Dave Daily, KB9LOT, will have additional information closer to the event date

NOVEMBER 2009

- 14-15 Indiana State Convention (Fort Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo)**
Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, 4000 Parnell Avenue, Fort Wayne, IN
Talk-in 146.88 (-); for more information e-mail to chairman@fortwaynehamfest.com
- 21 MARC Meeting - 8:00 AM, Franklin, IN**
Located at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN. VEC Testing after the meeting (approx. 9:30 am to 11:00 am)
- 28 Evansville Hamfest**
Vanderburgh County 4-H Fairgrounds Auditorium, Evansville, IN
Talk-in 145.150 (-) Evansville; 146.925 (-) and 443.925 (+) Vincennes (All use 107.2 PL)
For more information contact Neil Rapp, 2744 Pinehurst Drive, Bloomington, IN 47403

DECEMBER 2009

- 19 MARC Meeting - 8:00 AM, Franklin, IN**
Located at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN. VEC Testing after the meeting (approx. 9:30 am to 11:00 am)

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The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the **THIRD SATURDAY** of each month in the basement of the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, Indiana 46131.

See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.



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October 2009 Newsletter – Photo Pages

Photo 1

